<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:</u>

1. A method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail from a mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited electronic mail, the method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message from the mailer;

automatically determining the electronic mail message is probably unsolicited;

checking for an open relay in routing information of a header of the electronic mail message;

determining a facilitating party of the mailer; and

automatically reporting information relating to the electronic mail message to the facilitating party.

2. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating party comprises at least one of the following:

a first internet service provider (ISP) associated with an origin of the message;

an upstream provider for the first ISP;

a second ISP associated with the reply address;

a third ISP associated with an e-mail address in a body of the electronic mail message;

a host of a web site referenced in the body of the electronic mail message; and

the open relay in the routing information.

3. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited electronic mail as recited in claim 1, determining the electronic mail message is unsolicited based upon receipt of the electronic mail message.

4. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, further comprising baiting harvest of an electronic

4 mail address corresponding the electronic mail message.

1 5. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 4, wherein the baiting the harvest comprises at least

4 one of:

5 embedding the electronic mail address in a web page;

6 applying for an account with a web site using the electronic mail address;

7 participating in an online auction with the electronic mail address;

8 posting to a newsgroup or message board with the electronic mail address;

9 and

10 posting to a public forum with the electronic mail address.

1 6. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining the facilitating party

4 comprises determining at a protocol level which Internet protocol (IP) address sent the

5 electronic mail message to the open relay.

1 7. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

4 determining an address of the mailer; and

5 blocking electronic mail messages from the address for a predetermined

6 period of time.

1 8. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the automatically reporting information

4 comprises sending a report comprising information on a plurality of electronic mail

5 messages.

1 9. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3   electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the automatically reporting information

4   comprises periodically sending a report to the facilitating party.

1   10.   The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2   from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3   electronic mail as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

4   determining a first portion in the electronic mail message;

5   calculating a first code corresponding to the first portion;

6   determining a second portion in the electronic mail message;

7   calculating a second code corresponding to the second portion; and

8   storing the first and second codes.

1   11.   A method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2   from a mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3   electronic mail, the method comprising:

4   receiving an electronic mail message from the mailer;

5   determining the electronic mail message is unsolicited by comparing

6   codes;

7   checking for a source address in routing information of a header of the

8   electronic mail message;

9   determining a facilitating party of the mailer associated with the source

10   address; and

11   automatically reporting information relating to the electronic mail message

12   to the facilitating party.

1   12.   The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2   from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3   electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the determining the electronic message is

4   unsolicited comprises:

5   determining a first fingerprint indicative of the electronic mail message;

6   receiving a second electronic mail message;

7   determining a second fingerprint indicative of the second electronic mail

8   message; and

9   comparing the first fingerprint to the second fingerprint.

1   13.   The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the determining the facilitating party

4 comprises determining at a protocol level which Internet protocol (IP) address sent the

5 electronic mail message to an open relay.

1   14.   The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, further comprising blocking electronic mail

4 messages from the source address for a predetermined period of time.

1   15.   The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the automatically reporting information

4 comprises sending a report comprising information on a plurality of electronic mail

5 messages.

1   16.   The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail

2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the automatically reporting information

4 comprises periodically sending a report to the facilitating party.

1   17.   A method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a

2 sender, the method comprising:

3   receiving a first message;

4   determining a first fingerprint indicative of the first message;

5   storing the fingerprint;

6   receiving a second message;

7   determining a second fingerprint indicative of the second message;

8   comparing the first fingerprint to the second fingerprint;

9   determining the sender is an unsolicited mailer based upon the comparing

10 the first fingerprint to the second fingerprint;

11   analyzing routing information of a header of the second message;

12   determining a facilitating party from the routing information; and

13   automatically notifying the facilitating party.

1   18.   The method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a

2 mailer as recited in claim 17, further comprising embedding an e-mail address in the

3 Internet that has no legitimate purpose and is harvested by the unsolicited mailer.

1   19.   The method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a

2 mailer as recited in claim 17, wherein the determining the facilitating party comprises

3 determining at a protocol level which Internet protocol (IP) address sent the second

4 message to an open relay.

1   20.   The method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a

2 mailer as recited in claim 17, wherein the automatically notifying the facilitating party

3 comprises sending a report comprising information on a plurality of e-mail messages.